(d) and (e) The new 2006 estimates released by the National AIDS Control Organization, indicate that national adult HIV prevalence in India is 0.36%, which corresponds to an estimated 2 million to 3.1 million people living with HIV in the country. These estimates are more accurate and reliable as it is based on better data from a large number of sources using internationally recommended methods, as they are based on an expanded surveillance system and a revised and enhanced methodology. Global experience from surveys in 30 countries show that sentinel surveillance data tend to produce higher estimate.

As part of its continuing effort to know its epidemic better, the Indian Government has greatly expanded and improved its surveillance system in recent years and increased the number of population groups covered. In 2006, the government created 400 new sentinel surveillance sites and facilitated National Family Health Survey-3, which is a population-based survey.

The use of additional data sources in addition to the improved methodologies have resulted in a lower and more robust estimate.

Bird-flu affected States

87. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many States in the North-East are affected by bird-flu;

(b) whether bird-flu has spread to other States; and

(c) if so, whether any human casualties, both fatal and non-fatal, have been reported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Only one State in North-East has been affected by Bird flu which was notified in Village Chingmeirong, East Imphal district of Manipur on 25.7.2007. The disease appears to be limited and restricted to a small area without further evidence of spread.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No human casualties fatal or otherwise have been reported.

Health education package in Schools

88. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is proposing a health education package in schools;

(b) if so, what would be the focus of the package; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), a broad framework for implementation of School Health Programme has been circulated to all the States/UTs for incorporation in the State Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) which provides for innovative school health

programme to be taken up for a range of issues in Public Health. Funding of this programme will be as per specific proposals from School/Block/Districts converging into State plans. The broad framework for implementation, *inter-alia*, highlights coverage of health, nutrition and health education in school curriculum as key issues.

Health problems due to close proximity to roads

89. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that life close to roads affects development of lungs among the children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to spread awareness among residents who are in close proximity to roads to control the risks of health effects among the children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to Indian Council of Medical Research the studies carried out in western world suggests that life close to roads, affects development of lungs among the children. The developing lung is highly susceptible to damage from exposure to environmental toxicants particularly due to the protected maturation of the respiratory system. Living near traffic pollution results in inhalation of more of the ultra fine particles and carbon emitted from vehicle exhausts, particularly from diesel furmes, which get deep into the lungs. The main chemical component of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) which is of major concern is lead. Lead is especially hazardous to small children. Toxic chemicals are also present in traffic pollution, such as nitrogen dioxide which affects the ability of the lungs to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide with the bloodstream. From time to time workshops and seminars are conducted by the Government to increase the awareness among general population regarding ill effects of air pollution.

Causes of HIV/AIDS vulnerability

90. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that youth indulging in pre-marital sex and sex outside marriage are adding to the high rise HIV/AIDS figure;

(b) whether our current policies and plans do not address vulnerabilities of this group of people to this menace; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that unsafe sexual practices by youth increases their risk of acquiring HIV infection.

(b) and (c) Mass media and inter personal channels are used to disseminate messages on HIV prevention among young people. The adolescence education programme in